Financial assistance to terrorists in Punjab by pro-Khalistani elements abroad

43. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the pro-Khalistani elements abroad are trying to finance and encourage terrorists in Punjab with a view to saving their separatist movement from being isolated; and

(b) if so, what are those groups abroad which have been sending huge funds through clandestine means and encouraging terrorists through inflamatory literature and whether Government have taken up this matter with the Government of those countries where separatist plans are hatched and if so, what is their response?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government are aware that certain so-called pro-Khalistani elements/organizations located mostly in USA, Canada, Western Europe, Pakistan are clandestinely sending funds and undesirable literature to terrorists in Punjab. Government are alert about the threat posed by these terrorists activities against India from abroad. On different occasions, the Government of India have taken up the matter with the concerned foreign Governments. Majority of them have shown understanding of the problem.

Target for commercial borrowings from abroad

44. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a target has been fixed by Government for commercial borrowings from abroad during the Seventh Plan Period; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Seventh Plan provides for a total flow, at 1984-85 prices, of Rs. 20,900 crores over the Plan period, by way of net aid and other borrowings. This is inclusive of all net receipts on account of bilateral aid/loans, multiliteral loans and external commercial borrowings.

Schemes to give protection to Jute Industry

45. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme to ensure that synthetics do not displace traditional jute goods, particularly the jute packing material; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In order to protect Jute Industry from the adverse competition faced in the hands of Synthetics, Govt. have favoured mandatory usage of Jute Packaging materials by different sectors of the Industry. An empowered committee of Secretaries has been set up to work out the modalities.

Political interference in the working of Banks

46. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Bank Officers' Confederation has demanded that there should be no political interference in the matter of working of bank;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Times of India' on the 14th October, 1986 in this regard; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) in a memorandum submitted to Government on September 1, 1986, has alleged *inter-alia* that pressures and considerations are coming into play in the matter of appointment of representatives on Boards of the banks. However, some press statements have been made by the office bearers of AIBOC alleging political interference in the working of nationalised banks.

(c) and (d) No such news-item seems to have been published in the 'Times of India' dated 14th October, 1986 in this regard.

Loan melas

47. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' on the 14th October, 1986 regarding loan melas; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The study report on Credit Camps, to which the news-item refers, is under examination by the Government.

News-item regarding India's diamond link with South Africa

48. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item regarding India's diamond link with South Africa which appeared in the 'Newstime' of the 11th October, 1986;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes. Sir.

(a) and (c) It is clarified that India does not import diamonds from South Africa. Indians have been purchasing diamonds in London and in Antwerp where rough diamonds from all the world over are sold.

Ban on carrying of cameras to Tajmahal

49. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Government have banned carrying of cameras by the tourists while visiting Tajmahal at Agra; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what is the reaction of the tourists thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Carrying of cameras inside the mounment of Tajmahal is not allowed on security considerations, except in individual cases on merit subject to certain conditions.

P. M's. visit abroad

50. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited a number of East Asian countries during the month of October, 1986;

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries visited by him and the nature of discussions held between the Prime